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the character, as well as the effect, of war on our lawful commerce.

With this evidence of hostile reflexivity, in trampling on rights which no independent nation can relinquish; Congress will feel the duty of putting the United States into an armour, and an attitude demanded by the crisis, and corresponding with the national spirit and expectations.

#### PARTY DISTINCTIONS.

##### GENERAL ORDERS.

"It having been represented, that on certain days of the year, some soldiers are still in the habit of appearing with cockades and other badges, which give unintentional offence to different classes of their fellow-subjects—it is the COMMANDER OF THE FORCES' Order, that they do in future avoid any token of PARTY DISTINCTION, and confine themselves to the dress which his Majesty has been pleased to fix for the Corps to which they belong."

##### LANCASTERIAN SCHOOL.

At a Meeting of the Committee of the Belfast Lancasterian School, held this day, for the purpose of hearing Mr. Lancaster's report on the state of the School.

THOMAS McCABE, IN THE CHAIR;

*The following was received:—*

RESPECTED FRIENDS—I do myself the pleasure to state that I have repeatedly visited the Lancasterian School here, examining and re-examining the state of order as to the full introduction of the system into it; and I find that in point of beautiful order, the state of the School is such as not to be exceeded by any in the world, the original Institution in London not excepted.

That the improvement of the children consists with the order, considering the short time which the system has been introduced into it.

The entire state of the Institution reflects the highest honour upon the masters, and affords, to my mind, the most pleasing satisfaction, as it has done to every liberal minded person who has visited it—from a number of whom, I have had reports that have increased my gratification—till, between seeing and hearing, it has become inexpressible.

I most heartily congratulate you upon the noble principles upon which your institution is founded, as well as upon its success.

I find neither intolerance nor bigotry, have any place in your line of conduct. I

hail the prospect with joy, as I know, that education without proselytism, is not only best calculated for Ireland, but for the whole bulk of mankind.

Wishing you all the success your principles merit—and that the same rule of action may not only continue long to do honour to the benevolence and christian liberality of the town of Belfast, but pervade all Ireland—I remain your obliged and respectful friend,

JOSEPH LANCASTER.

*To the Committee of the Belfast Lancasterian School.*

Resolved—That the advantages of the Lancasterian system of education appears evident to this Committee, by the rapid progress made by the children in the Belfast School—They, therefore, have great pleasure in confirming Mr. Lancaster's favourable report; and ardently hope that a system so conducive to the improvement, both as to the instruction and morals of the lower classes, may become widely diffused over the country.

Resolved—That it appearing to this Meeting, that the universal diffusion of elementary knowledge will conduce to the happiness and prosperity of the poor, as well as the true welfare and glory of the country, we find it our duty to recommend this system of education to public notice, as most eligible to be carried into effect, unconnected with the imposition of principles upon the children, which may be repugnant to the religious opinions, and therefore, oppressive to the minds of their parents—a line of conduct reprobated by a generous public, and which we abhor as calculated only to foster prejudice and generate hypocrisy.

Resolved—That the Thanks of this committee be given to M. J. Lancaster, for his strenuous and meritorious exertions for the diffusion of useful knowledge; for his attention to the cause of education in Ireland; for his able advocacy of the unlettered and unfriended poor; and particularly for his zealous co-operation and endeavours to communicate his useful and improved system permanently and effectually to the town of Belfast.

Resolved—That the good conduct and abilities of Mr. Harrod, the young man sent here by Mr. Lancaster to organize the school, is best shown by its present prosperous state, the good order, regularity and great proficiency of the scholars, and merit the entire approbation of the Committee—which they thus publicly express, in order

that his merits may be generally known, and duly appreciated, wherever he may hereafter be employed. ALEX. BARR, SECRETARY.  
Belfast, Dec. 14, 1811.

#### LIVERPOOL PETITION.

*For withdrawing the Orders in Council.*

THE Orders in Council of 1807, continued in certain of their provisions by an Order of the 26th of April, 1809, appearing to several merchants in this town, to have failed, after ample experience, of producing the objects expected from them, and instead of benefit, to have been productive of most serious injury to the trade and commerce of the country, and of this port in particular; a requisition to the Mayor was in a course of Signature, requesting him to convene a public meeting of the merchants and other inhabitants, for the purpose of considering the propriety of petitioning His ROYAL HIGHNESS the PRINCE REGENT to withdraw the Orders in Council; but on its being understood that such a measure was not likely to meet with the concurrence of the Mayor, an advertisement was inserted in Billinge's paper of the 9th inst. requesting "A Meeting of the Merchants and others, who thought that the withdrawing of the Orders in Council would benefit the trade and commerce of the country, in order to petition the Prince Regent to withdraw the Orders, or so to modify them as to afford relief to the distressed state of trade and commerce."

In the course of the day on which this advertisement appeared, the Gentleman who had left it for insertion, received a visit from the Mayor, who stated that in consequence of the advertisement, he had been applied to by some Gentlemen who intimated their intention of calling a Counter Meeting, if the former was persisted in; and, apprehensive that the peace of the town might be thereby disturbed, he wished to know whether the Meeting for Wednesday could not be given up. In answer to an observation, that it had been intimated he would not call a Meeting, the Mayor remarked, that he had not been applied to in an official way, and that no person was warranted in saying he would have refused.

The following reply was next morning presented to the Mayor; but he declined receiving it, unless accompanied with a direct answer whether the Meeting for Wednesday would, or would not take place;

BELFAST MAG. NO. XLI.

on which the postscript to the letter was added.

Liverpool, 10th December, 1811.

SIR,

HAVING, with our late friend, the lamented Mr. William Rathbone, been appointed by the persons in this town, who petitioned Parliament against the Orders in Council of November, 1807, to attend to the business of their petition, we were led to give a more particular attention to the subject of those orders; and we have since continued our attention to their effects upon the trade and commerce of this country.—Impressed with a conviction that these effects have been, not favourable, but the reverse; and understanding that it would not be agreeable to you to convene a meeting of the town generally, to consider the propriety of petitioning his Royal Highness the Prince Regent to withdraw the Orders in Council; in concurrence with several friends, whose view of them is the same with our own, we caused an advertisement to be inserted in Billinge's paper yesterday, requesting the merchants and others, who think that the withdrawing of the Orders of 1807, continued by an Order of the 26th April, 1809, will benefit the trade and commerce of this country, to meet at the Golden Lion, Dale-street, to-morrow, for the purpose of petitioning his Royal Highness the Prince Regent to withdraw the said Orders in Council, or so to modify them as to afford relief to the distressed state of the trade and commerce; and we do ourselves the honour to hand you herewith a copy of resolutions, on the subject intended to be submitted to the meeting for its approbation.

We have learnt from Mr. Thomas Bolton, whom you did the honour to call upon yesterday afternoon in consequence of his having taken the advertisement to Billinge's, that we were probably not correct in the opinion that it would not be agreeable to you to convene a Meeting of the town for the purpose specified. We shall be happy if this is the case; and beg leave to assure you that, if you will call such a meeting, it will give us and those with whom we have acted, much pleasure to withdraw the Notice for the Meeting to-morrow.

From the information which we could collect of the general sense of the town, we could not conceive that the agitation, of this subject could be made a party

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